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TEXT-BOOKS

The Making of the English Constitution, 449-1485. By Albert Beebe White, Professor of History in the University of Minnesota. (New York and London, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1908, pp. xxvii, 410.) This work by a professor in a Western state university is an excellent indication of the interest of American students in the history of the great institutional mother-land. The period of English constitutional history that Professor White deals with is the formative age from the coming of the English tribes to Britain to the accession of the first Tudor ruler. The first sixty pages of the text constitute part I., on the Anglo-Saxon Period, 449-1066. Here we have a brief and, on the whole, rather too general account of the institutional history of this important and fundamental period. Although the sources of information for Anglo-Saxon institutions are few they are sufficient in scope and reliability to justify a more definite and illuminating account of pre-Conquest government than Professor White seems able to give. It is evident, however, that the author takes a strongly favorable attitude towards Continental influence in English institutional development, and in part II. of the work there is an interesting and well-worked-out account of the Norman Conquest and its more immediate results as indicated in the mingling of Anglo-Saxon and Norman institutions.

The main portion of the work is contained in part III. where the making of the judiciary, the executive, and Parliament are dealt with. The first of these topics is treated at somewhat inordinate length as compared with the space given to the other two. Professor White's treatment of the executive is the least satisfactory of the three divisions, and he lays himself open to serious criticism in regard to the origin, development and character of the council by insisting on its continuity from the Norman *Curia Regis* and in failing to be definite and explicit as to its later character and development. The account of the making of Parliament is far more satisfactory but is less thorough and comprehensive than the chapter on the judiciary.

As Professor White has designed his work for text-book uses he does not make any really positive contribution to our knowledge of English institutions but seeks to give an interpretation of English constitutional and legal history based on the best secondary authorities. He shows himself a very faithful disciple of the late Professor Maitland and of Professor G. B. Adams and copious extracts from the well-known and easily obtainable works of these two writers take up space in both text and foot-notes. In view of the marked lack of critical and bibliographical foot-notes in connection with many controverted questions it would seemingly have been better to have omitted some of these long quotations and given the space to critical

and bibliographical notes. A select and annotated bibliography and lists of topical readings are prefaced to the work and will be of use to both teachers and students. Among the mistakes and printers' errors noted by the reviewer the following seem most important: *Litchfield* (p. 65) for Lichfield, *Stewarts* (p. 157) for Stuarts, *Cheney* (pp. 184, 186) for Cheyney. In general appearance and make-up the book is attractive, and is provided with a serviceable index.

N. M. TRENHOLME.

Documentary Source Book of American History, 1606-1898. Edited with notes by William MacDonald, Professor of History in Brown University. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1908, pp. xii, 616.) This volume, as indicated by the preface, has been prepared in order to meet the requests of teachers for documents suitable "for courses of instruction of an elementary or comprehensive character, or which cover both the colonial and the constitutional periods of American history in a single year". By condensation and the omission of certain provisions, the selections constitute about two-thirds of those to be found in *Select Charters*, *Select Documents* and *Select Statutes*. While it is probable that no two persons would agree upon what should be included in a single-volume "Documentary Source Book", it must be acknowledged that this one does contain, in general, the fundamental charters and statutes. The Constitution of the United States, however, is easily accessible and the space assigned it might well have been devoted to three documents included in *Select Charters* not so available for class use; namely, Albany Plan of Union; Virginia Resolutions of March 12, 1773; and Petition to the King, July 8, 1775.

The suggestive introductory notes of the earlier volumes have been retained with slight changes. Professor MacDonald has performed a real service for the teachers of history by bringing together in a single convenient volume this kind of supplementary material.

J. A. J.